UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/816,640	03/22/2001	Shinji Fujiwara	16869B017410	7097

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EXAMINER
RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2175	

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
   application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application)
since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.
37 CFR 1.78.

   a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific
reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lei et al. (U.S.

Patent 6,487,552).

Claim 1: Reference is made to col. 13, line 65 through col. 14, line 27 of Lei et al. Col

14, lines 4-6 describe the submission of a SQL query (Q3). The receipt of the query by either the

user computer or the server computer is a step of receiving an access for a first type of

information from an information store. The first type of information is the information in a table

"t" and the information store is a database. Col. 14, lines 14-16 describe the replacement of the

request with a modified request in the form of a modified query (Q4). The modified request is

based on a policy function (col. 14, line 8) which is readable as an "access policy". The modified

request then accesses certain limited information. The results produced by the query are "masked

values" in the sense they produce a view of the table that has been masked to not display certain

rows. For example, if the table has information in multiple languages, the query results in a view

showing only a portion of the table having one language.

Claim 2: The function "GetContextValue(****)" is a mask function since it masks a

portion of the table.

Claim 3: The mask function is executed to produce masked values. The "masked values"

are the view of the table that has been masked by the mask function.

Claim 4: The filter function is the predicate in the parentheses of the "Get Context Value (***)" function. In the example of col. 14, line 16, the filter function is "language" and limits a view of the table to a certain language.

Claim 5: The information store is a table in a database. A table forms a relational database since rows are related to columns and columns are related to rows. The initial request for information is the query (Q3) and includes a "SELECT" function. The SELECT statement initially requests all of the columns inherently provided by the table "t". The modified request is the query (Q4) and replaces a request for all of the columns in the table with a request for only those rows and columns that have a particular language, specified by the predicate "Language" in the "GetContextValue(***) statement. The "GetContextValue(****) function is a mask function.

Claim 6: The query request (Q4) includes a WHERE clause. The filter function is the predicate "Language" in the "GetContextValue(****)" mask function.

Claim 7:   Col. 14, line 4 provides an initial query (Q3) that includes a SELECT statement. The SELECT statement makes a reference to a table (t), thus inherently refers to all of the columns contained in that table. As Seen in col. 14, lines 14-16, the query (Q3) is replaced by a query (Q4), which is a modified query that includes a mask function. The mask function is the GetContextValue(****) function. The query result from the modified query produces a view of the table that pertains to one specific language, thus limiting the view of the table to only those columns and rows that have that language.

Claim 8: The method incorporates the usage of a WHERE clause. The WHERE clause is modified by the usage of the "GetContextValue(***) in the WHERE clause. The predicate "Language" within the GetContextValue(***)" function in col. 14, line 16 is the filter function.

Claim 9: FIG. 2 illustrates a database server which receives the queries from the clients.

Claim 10-11: The actual replacement of the query with a modified query are described as occurring on the server side of the system (col. 9, lines 62-64). However, col. 18, lines 11-14 describe an option where the functions are distributed on the client side, so the functionality can actually be placed on either the client side or server side of the client-server architecture.

Claim 12: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 13: See remarks for claim 4.

Clam 14: See remarks for claim 5.

Claim 15: See remarks for claim 6.

Claim 16: See client server architecture of FIG. 2.

Claim 17: See remarks for claim 5. Note that the server is a relational database by reason that it contains tables of data. A table is a relational data structure.

Claim 18: See remarks for claim 2.

Claim 19: See remarks for claim 6. Note that the server is a relational database by reason that it contains tables of data. A table is a relational data structure.

Claim 20: See remarks for claim 2.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at

telephone number (703) 306-5626.

Sam Rimell
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Art Unit 2175